

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-9 are rejected. Claims 2-6 and 10-14 are allowable. Claim 1, 3-9, and 11-14 have been amended and claims 2 and 10 has been canceled. Claim 1 and 7 are independent claims. Claims 1-14 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based upon the following comments.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6 and 10-14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, applicants have incorporated dependent claim 2 into base claim 1 and 10 into base claim 7. Applicants have also canceled dependent claim 2 and 10 and have amended dependent claims 3-6 and 11 -14 to properly depended from base claim 1 and 7, respectively. No new matter was added.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (US 6,999,653). Applicants submit that incorporating allowable claim 10 into base claim 7 now makes base claim 7 not anticipated by Lee and therefore the pending rejection is now rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection as the base claim, as amended now recites a bi-directional optical add/drop multiplexer wherein each of the add/drop comprises, *inter alia*, a first and second coupler and a first and second coupler which are not anticipated by Lee.

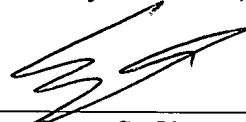
Claims 1 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US 6,999,653) in view of Doerr (US Pub. No. 2002/0122440). Applicants submit that incorporating allowable claim 2 into base claim 1 now makes base claim 1

unpatentable over Lee in view of Doer has the references alone or in combination fail to show a bi-directional optical add/drop multiplexer including add/drop parts as recited in the amended base claim. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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